

Minutes of Meeting
State Soil Conservation Board
Indiana Government Center, Conference Room 1
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Present:

David L. Avery
Ellsworth P. Christmas
Karen L. Dehne
Paul J. Ehret
Garry Tom

Absent:

Peter A. Hippensteel
O. William Mann
Travis E. Nolcox
Julia B. Wickard

Others present:

Gregory L. Biberdorf	Jill E. Hoffmann
Randy J. Braun	Jenny R. Kintzele
Sherman Bryant	James M. Krejci
Douglas Campbell	Matthew S. Lake
Dorothy A. Corns	Harry S. Nikides
Christopher J. Downing	James K. Ray
Jim Druin	
Travis D. Gogel	
Hope L. Green	
Jane E. Hardisty	

Vice-Chairman David Avery brought the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Division biologist Jill Hoffmann requested hearing of a proposal for alternative use of funds previously granted to the Webster Lake Conservation Association.

Division director Harry Nikides noted that any actions taken at this meeting, with only a quorum present, would require concurrence of all members, as per IC 14-32-2-9.

Draft Minutes of February 11, 2003

Paul Ehret moved to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Karen Dehne and carried.

Supervisor Resignations/Appointments

Conservation program coordinator Jim Krejci presented the resignation of Doug Davenport (Fountain, A-05) and recommendation for appointment of Kyle Brown to complete the unexpired term and the resignation of Tim Herd (Delaware, A-04) and recommendation for appointment of Douglas Scholer to complete the unexpired term. Krejci also presented the recommendation for temporary appointment of Joe Rode to serve until the next district annual meeting in Morgan; the temporary appointment is due to failure of the district to meet requirements of IC 14-32-4-10 regarding nominees for supervisor election.

Ellsworth Christmas moved to accept the resignations in Fountain and Delaware and to approve the recommendations for appointment of Kyle Brown and Douglas Scholar to complete the unexpired terms in Fountain and Delaware, respectively, and to approve the recommendation for temporary appointment of Joe Rode in Morgan. The motion was seconded by Garry Tom and carried.

Clean Water Indiana

Harry Nikides reported that several districts have requested approval for changes in their CWI proposals. The proposed changes generally involve types of projects or changes that have previously received State Board approval. Nikides stated that, after discussing the project changes in telephone conversations with the respective districts, he has given verbal approval to proceed as per the written proposals for adjustments.

Division/Purdue University Agreements

Harry Nikides reported that Division staff have continued working with Purdue University and state staff to finalize the processes necessary to complete the fiscal year agreement for soil conservation staff hired through the university. The adjustments discussed at the State Board's February meeting can be handled through alternate procedures that will better track funding sources.

Soil and Water Quality Programs

Education and SWCD Support:

Jim Krejci reported that supervisor training meetings have been completed at Monticello and Huntington, with about 70 people attending. Two additional meetings are scheduled at Washington and North Vernon.

Stormwater and Sediment Control:

Program chief Randy Braun advised that issues regarding distribution of Rule 5 funds have been resolved so that distribution can be handled by claim voucher. Additionally, it has been learned that the district distribution and eligibility form previously approved by the Board may not require the State Board chairman's signature.

Garry Tom moved to eliminate the State Board chairman's signature blank from the Rule 5 district distribution-eligibility form. The motion was seconded by Ellsworth Christmas and carried.

Braun reported that the first draft of the post-construction stormwater manual has been completed. Development of the manual is provided under a contract with Purdue University's Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department. Staff is currently reviewing the draft for comments and corrections. Braun circulated a copy of the draft manual.

Lake and River Enhancement:

Division biologist Jill Hoffmann presented a completion report on the Ball Lake diagnostic study (Steuben and DeKalb counties). Total project cost was \$26,150, with the Otsego Ball Lake Association contributing five percent of the cost. A balance of \$3,727 remains to be paid. Using

slides, Hoffmann discussed the study findings and recommendations, as reported by the consultant, F.X. Browne. Recommendations include ditch protection practices, erosion and sediment control plans, streambank restoration, wetlands creation or restoration, invasive species control, and pollution control from gravel roadways. DeKalb SWCD has submitted an application for a watershed land treatment grant to begin implementing needed agricultural practices in fiscal year 2003-2004. Staff recommends acceptance of the diagnostic study report and approval of final payment to the Otsego Ball Lake Association.

Karen Dehne moved to accept the Ball Lake diagnostic study completion report and to approve final payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Garry Tom and carried.

Hoffmann presented a report on status of blue-green algae in Indiana. The *Cylindrospermopsis raciborski* strain was first discovered on August 15, 2001, during routine water sampling for the Ball Lake diagnostic study. Although the algae bloom dissipated within about two weeks, an advisory group was formed to study the situation and seek control measures. Using slides, Hoffmann discussed spread of the potentially toxic species in Indiana and throughout the United States. High concentrations pose serious health dangers for humans and animals, having resulted in death or illness in some instances. The Indiana advisory group has recommended seeking a U.S. EPA Section 319 grant to further study the situation and provide education to lake users. Hoffmann distributed copies of a fall 2002 article, *The State of Toxic Freshwater Algae in Florida*, by E.J. Philips, a noted authority from the University of Florida.

Land and water conservation chief Jim Ray and Jill Hoffmann presented a request from the Webster Lake Conservation Association to consider redirection of previously approved funds. The Association's request for \$21,000 was approved in July, 2001, to conduct a feasibility study for a wetland/nutrient filter. Since that time, the affected landowner carried out the intended project without use of the LARE funding. The lake association is now proposing use of the funds for other feasibility and diagnostic studies in the Webster Lake watershed. Having no previous experience with proposal alteration, the LARE staff defers to the State Board to determine policy for such instances. After lengthy discussion, Board members asked to delay further discussion until the April meeting, when more members may be in attendance.

Hoffmann distributed copies of the Tippecanoe Environmental Lake & Watershed Foundation Winter 2003 newsletter *News Splash*, which features a number of articles of current interest.

Division of Soil Conservation Director's Report

Harry Nikides introduced recently hired staff: resource specialists Chris Downing, Travis Gogel, Jenny Kintzele, and Matt Lake, and administrative assistant Hope Green. Nikides distributed copies of a state map marked for county assignments for each of the Division's resource specialists. All of the state's 92 counties are now covered by Division technical staff. Nikides also distributed copies and discussed an outline of staff expectations for program delivery. Two additional staff resignations have been received; resource specialist Joy Frederick, who served in Vigo and Clay counties, and Laurie Rounds, who coordinated Indiana's Coastal Management Program.

IDEM Report

Senior environmental manager Doug Campbell reported that Linda Schmidt was recently hired as the new section chief for watershed management. Staff is still awaiting information from EPA on Section 319 grant awards.

State Association President's Report

Sherm Bryant reported on status of legislation affecting districts; planning for the 2004 annual conference of SWCDs; the NACD legislative conference in Washington, DC, and the national conference in Orlando, Florida; NACD by-laws changes; and district local motion training.

NRCS State Conservationist's Report

Jane Hardisty reported on status of NRCS budgets and personnel transactions, Farm Bill provisions, EQIP ranking processes, and potential closing of additional field offices. Hardisty distributed copies of NRCS annual report materials.

Public Comment

Garry Tom invited Board members to inform him of issues of concern that he and other State Association officers can carry to Indiana's Congressional representatives while attending the NACD legislative conference in Washington, DC.

Next Meeting

The next State Soil Conservation Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 8, 2003, in the Government Conference Center, Indianapolis.

Paul Ehret moved, seconded by Ellsworth Christmas, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Dorothy Corns

Approved April 8, 2003:

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